



# The Ames Intelligencer

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## Medicine Man To Perform at Heritage Meeting

A Medicine Show Man will make his appearance at the annual Ames Heritage Association meeting to be held Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue.

The Medicine Man, alias Don Faas of Ames, will appear in costume, complete with bow tie, plaid jacket, and bowler hat, carrying his suitcase full of bottles of medicines guaranteed to cure anything that ails you. He'll sell a little snake oil, promote different patent medicines, and maybe sing a little song or two about Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, William Radam's Microbe Killer, Dr. Kilmer's Swamproot, and Dr. Hostetter's Bitters.

Don's hobby of collecting bottles started in 1971, like many hobbies, quite by accident after he found pieces of broken glass down by the river. Digging around, Don found several other bottles, and he began to get interested in the hobby of digging up history. Don now specializes in medicine and old soda bottles, especially Iowa bottles and old patent medicine medicines.

Don, currently serving as president of the Iowa Antique Bottleers Association, loves to search out old bottles, discarded years ago in garbage pits and even outhouse pits, to discover history and information about people's lives and habits.

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At the annual meeting, Don plans to display several soda and pharmacy bottles from Ames bottlers, including some from the Ames Bottling Company started in 1908. Don will also display several pieces from his collection of Ames historical memorabilia and advertising publications dating back to the turn of the century.

Don is a long-time AHA member, Ames resident, and industrial education instructor at Ames High

School.

Officers for 1988 and members of the Board of Directors will be elected at the annual meeting. Current Ames Heritage Association President Leland Himan invites the public to attend the meeting and encourages interested persons to volunteer to serve as members of the board to provide new energy and interest in the Ames Heritage Association.



*Don Faas of Ames will present his Medicine Man Show at the annual Ames Heritage Association meeting on Tuesday, January 12 in the auditorium of the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue.*



# Recommendations for Restoration of Depot Received

The Ames Heritage Association has received models and recommendations for restoration and renovation of the depot building in downtown Ames from Professor Arvid Osterberg's Iowa State University architecture class. The suggestions cover such architectural features as masonry, mortar, wood deterioration and treatment, matching paints and paint colors, energy conservation and lighting, accessibility to the handicapped, and fire protection.

Recommendations presented in the project include:

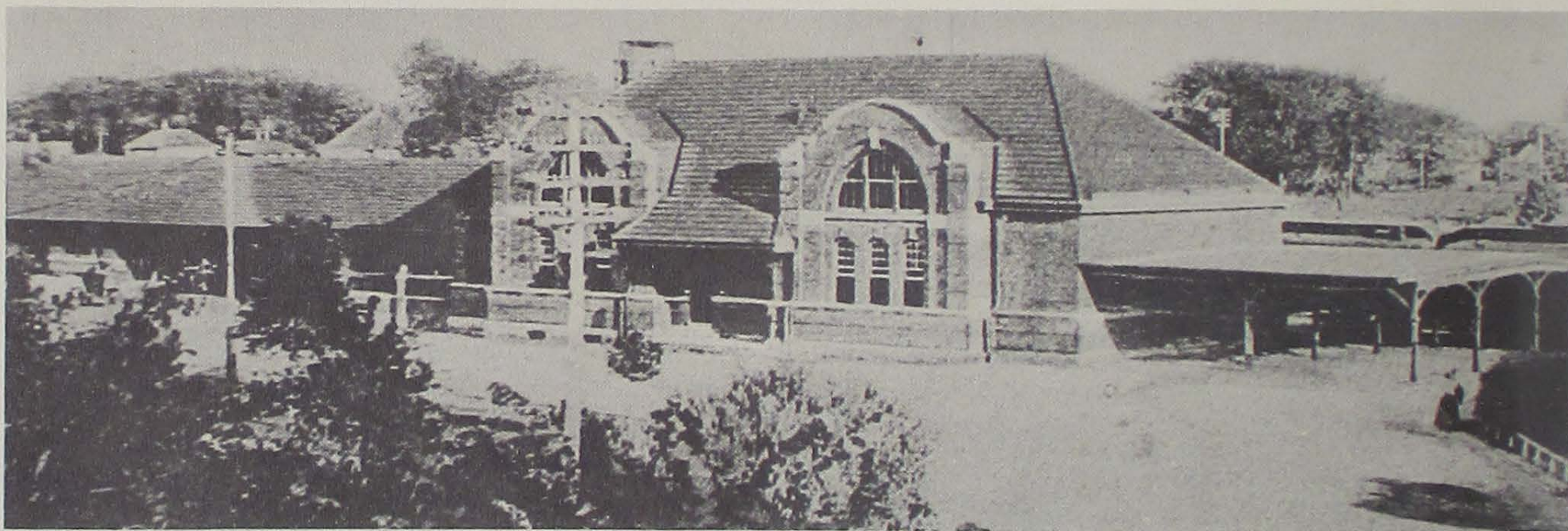
- keeping new additions and new construction to a minimum, designing new work to be compatible in building materials, size, scale, color, and texture with the earlier buildings and the neighborhood;
- repairing or replacing, where necessary, deteriorated components and material with new materials that duplicate the old

as closely as possible in size, shape, and texture;

- duplicating old mortar in composition, color, texture, joint size, method of application, and joint profile;
- replacing missing or irreparable windows on significant facades with new windows that match the original in material, size, general proportion and configuration, and reflective qualities of the glass;
- cleaning masonry only when necessary to halt deterioration or to remove graffiti and stains and always with the gentlest method possible, such as low-pressure water and soft, natural-bristle brushes;
- installing necessary mechanical systems in areas and spaces that will require the least possible alteration to the structural integrity and physical appearance of the

building;

- retaining and repairing window and door openings, frames, sash, glass, doors, sills, hardware, shutters, etc. where they contribute to the architectural and historical character of the building;
- undertaking stabilization and repair of weakened structures;
- repairing only those mortar joints where there is evidence of moisture problems or where sufficient mortar is missing to allow water to stand in the mortar joint;
- retaining the original roofing material, whenever possible;
- retaining and preserving significant architectural features, whenever possible;
- and discovering the historic paint colors and finishes of the structure and repainting with those colors to illustrate the distinctive character of the building.



*This 1912 photograph shows the "Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company's Passenger Station" and the park and gardens that once graced the area.*



*The Ames Depot was once a busy railroad station as seen in this 1915 photograph.*



# Ames Grew From Its Swamps

By Farwell T. Brown



*This 1880 stereoptic view of the Ames Drug Store on the northwestern corner of Main and Douglas shows how the ground elevation dropped off under this woodframe store building that had no basement. By this date, some filling at the corner had taken place. Boardwalks were on both sides of the business street in 1880.*

According to my grandfather, who arrived in Ames in April 1866, "Ames was laid out on more sloughs than likely could be found in any other place in Story County." One of his earliest recollections of early Ames included this quote in 1892.

Ames was laid out in 1864 by an engineer by the name of Charles Irish under the direction of John I. Blair, the chief construction engineer for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The town was recorded in January 1865, and the first house in Ames was built that same year.

A year earlier, in 1863, John I. Blair, W.W. Walker, and Massachusetts Congressman Oakes Ames had travelled this way in a stagecoach. Their mission was to "eyeball" the best route for the proposed railroad line. Blair kept detailed field notes and paid particular attention to the best location to bridge the stream.

It was on that excursion that the decision was probably made to locate the tracks across the expanse of bottomland east of the Skunk River and to cross the low ground extending west to Squaw Creek. That route would avoid the steeper hills that crowded close to the riverbanks farther to the north.

Equally a factor was the cheaper land available along such a route.

Beyond Squaw Creek to the west lay the land purchased only four years earlier by the State of Iowa for a proposed agricultural college and "model" farm. A farm house and barns had already been built. Blair and his party, no doubt, made a stop at the Farm House on the October day when they passed this way. Here was a potential population center. Blair knew his railroad should be nearby.

That same year, Isaac Black came from Ohio and paid \$4.65 an acre for the 172 acres of bare land that today is bound by Lincolnway on the north, Duff Avenue on the east, and the Iowa Department of Transportation on the west. Black's land had potential for development, especially to the east of what is now Walnut Avenue. During the next decade, a few homes were built along Lincolnway and south on the extension of Duff Avenue a short distance. But, in 1866, Black's long, low house located somewhere near present-day Walnut Avenue was the only house to be seen in the area, and today's Lincolnway was then only a worn wagon trail known as Boone Street.

Sometime prior to 1861, the

federal government had transferred to the State of Iowa several thousand acres of land that had been classified as "swamp lands" and described as "unusable." The state, in turn, transferred that land to the various counties with the directive to sell the lands, giving preference to people who might have preemption rights.

In 1867, Isaac Black paid \$100 for 80 acres of land classified as "swamp land" - land that today houses the University Inn, Home Furniture and Appliance, and a number of other present-day commercial operations. That land extended east from present-day Duff Avenue to the Skunk River. Today, the entire area adjacent to Duff Avenue has been filled to an elevation suitable for modern-day development.

That same year, a man by the name of McCartney acquired another nearby 80 acres of land for \$100 - land that also was classified as "swamp land." This land lay on the west side of the Skunk River and north of the present-day Lincolnway. Again, filling to establish development elevations along East Lincolnway is noticeable, and a number of commercial establishments can be seen today.



In 1870, Fred Tilden and his father, Julius, arrived in Ames with a wagon-load of their household belongings. There had been heavy rains, and it had taken a half-day for the drive from Nevada. Tilden later told of their arrival at Ames after dark. He described the 16-foot wide plank bridge over the Skunk River as being barely above water and how they held their breath as their four-horse team made it across the structure. He described the bottomland west of the river where the water covered the road.

"My father dropped the lines and trusted the team to find its way to the little town still a half-mile to the westward," Tilden said. "Our trusty team worked its way successfully through the boggy lowlands, and, at last, we found ourselves in the pioneer town of Ames."

According to Charlie Taylor, another Ames pioneer who arrived in 1866, "On the ninth day of March, that year, when I pulled into Ames, then a slough town, it boasted of little else than a railroad." In an interview in 1927, Taylor stated that "ducks were more plentiful then, and they would come sailing in on the pond west of the high school site." The high school site that he referred to is the present-day site of the former Central Junior High School.

Other recorded descriptions tell of ponds along Onondaga Street, as Main Street was known prior to 1910. Building contractors of recent years can tell of several feet of fill ground in the vicinity of the Douglas corner of Main Street. The pioneer Osborn Drug Store on that northwest corner was a frame one-

story building built on piles. That building was gutted by fire in the 1880s. Captain Wallace M. Greeley acquired the location at about that time and located his Union Bank on the corner. In 1870, there were still a few plank steps up from the street to the boardwalk in front of that little building.

The original railroad depot was located just off Duff Avenue. There was something of a seasonal duck pond reported not far from that depot. But Taylor and others who were among Ames' first settlers are quoted as saying that the site of the new depot built in 1900 was "all duck pond" in their early days in Ames.

A small stream ran across the town from the northeast toward the southwest in those days. My grandfather often told us that the prairie at that location never saw a plow. There were high and low areas with wet and dry ground intermingled. The stream, as described by my father, meandered through the ponds on which Taylor shot ducks. It finally drained to Squaw Creek following a course south from somewhere near the west of the present City Hall Annex (formerly the depot). When the railroad was built, the stream was diverted into culverts under the tracks.

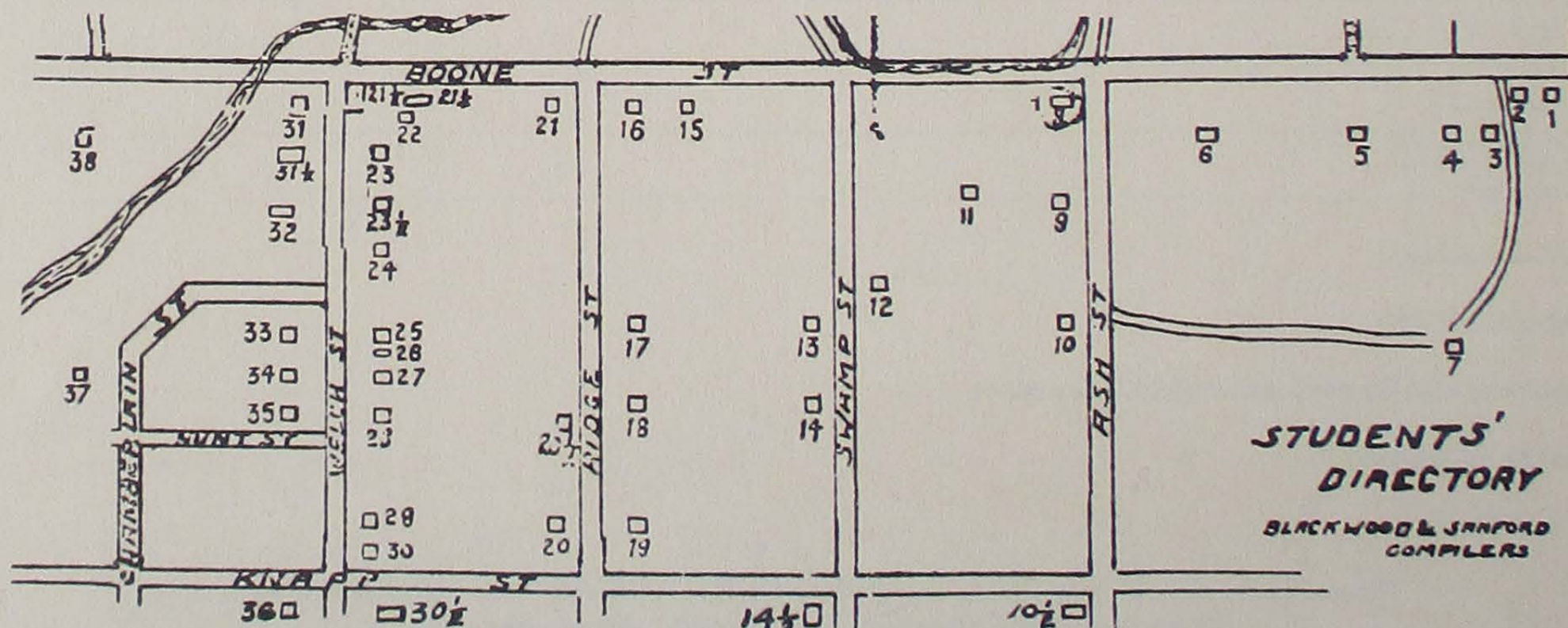
In my day, the stream outletted into an open ditch along the west side of the old Ames High School Field House on Lincolnway, today the site of the Lincoln Shopping Mall. That was in 1927. My contemporaries remember this ditch as low brushy ground that lay adjacent to the east side of the southbound Northwestern Railroad

tracks at that location. Later, that ditch was diverted into a storm sewer that eventually extended all the way to Squaw Creek.

In the meantime, the open flow of water across the town was intercepted by street ditches and, later, by a storm sewer system. Today, as you drive north through the original town of Ames to the series of residential additions to the north, you can visually see that you are passing to higher ground. In the early days, swales and boggy areas prevailed even at the higher elevations on the prairie, as evidenced by the frequently standing water that some people, still residents of Ames, can remember.

The university campus area was a beautiful natural area with fewer trees than can be imagined today. The entire area was originally not part of Ames. Early college year-books described the campus as being two miles west of the village of Ames. On January 2, 1893, the campus and most of a section south of the campus were annexed into the town. But swamps and bogs were to be found there, too. The road leading south from the campus, the road that today is Lynn Avenue, is shown on a 1905 street map as being "Swamp Road." And, in my day, the sorority girls who lived in the big house located where the Memorial Lutheran Church is today, on the corner of Lynn and Lincolnway, were called the "Swamp Angels."

From a town "laid out on more sloughs that likely could be found in any other place in Story County," Ames has become a city growing on firm foundations.



This map, taken from the 1905 Iowa State College Student Directory, refers to today's Lynn Avenue as "Swamp Street." "Boone Street" refers to today's Lincolnway.



# Bauge Cabin Becomes AHA Project

Within a mile of the Sharp cabin northeast of Huxley is a smaller log cabin house that is known to some local people as the Bauge cabin. It is located on land originally set aside by the federal government as university land before Story County was an organized county.

In 1856, the first private title to this part of Section 12 in Palestine Township was granted by a state patent to a Thomas Hight. The log house was built in the 1870s or earlier. The Bauge family appears to have purchased the land where the cabin is located in February 1876. It was the home of the Bauge family for many years and was owned last by the mother of Jennings Bauge of Ames. Eldon Bauge of Ames spent his boyhood years in this log house. In 1963, it was purchased by the Steensland family of Huxley, who are the present owners of the cabin.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Steensland have agreed to assist the Ames Heritage Association in preserving the cabin as a piece of local history. The AHA has set up a committee which met to discuss the relocation of the cabin. At the November 10, 1987 meeting of the AHA, members voted to relocate the Bauge cabin to McFarland Park north of Ames, in cooperation with the Story County

Conservation Board which manages the park. McFarland Park provides easy county-wide access to the cabin, allowing the project to become a county-wide effort. Ames Project ECO classes, as well as other

county schools and the general public, will be able to use the cabin at its new site. Studies are now underway to assess the costs and feasibility of moving the building.



*The Bauge cabin near Huxley was built in the 1870s or earlier and purchased by the Bauge family in February 1876.*

*It's time to renew; your membership in the Ames Heritage Association for 1988. To help keep the Ames Heritage Association active and strong, please renew your membership today. Members are also encouraged to bring new members into the organization.*

*Please enroll me as a 1988 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$5.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Business and Organization (\$25.00 or more)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$100)

\_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$1000)

Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to  
Treasurer Jan Halverson, P.O. Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.

Thank You!





A supply of McGuffey readers has been obtained by the Ames Heritage Association for use at Hoggatt School. Lesson plans for use of the readers will be packaged and sent to the Media Center at each elementary school in Ames.

*"The Weekly (Ames) Intelligencer, a live paper, was first published by Mr. A. McFadden, an experienced newspaper publisher and editor. Its first issue was about April 1868 - nineteen years ago - and is still being published. J.E. Duncan, Esq., is editor and proprietor, and gets up an excellent paper."*

*From the description of Ames' first newspaper in William G. Allen's History of Story County written in 1887 (page 232).*

## Hoggatt School Days Christmas

There was a Hoggatt School Christmas thanks to the efforts of AHA member and Fellows School fifth grade teacher Shelly Boyd and her son, Paul. Shelly and Paul, an eighth grade student at Ames Middle School, put together the Hoggatt School Days Christmas tree and display as part of the annual Mary Greeley Medical Center's Festival of Trees held in November. The tree and display were later exhibited at the Ames Community Schools Administration Building on Kellogg Avenue.

Paul combined his photography and woodworking skills to work on his 4-H community service project. Ornaments included handmade Hoggatt Schools, bells, and slates and are available for sale at \$2.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to the Ames Heritage Association for maintaining Hoggatt School. Ornaments may be ordered from Shelly and Paul Boyd by calling 232-3974.



## Elections To Be Held in January

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jay Cole Simser, will make the following recommendations for election to the Board of Directors for 1988 at the annual meeting to be held Tuesday, January 12:

To fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for three-year terms to expire January 1991:

Farwell Brown  
Cecelia Burnett  
Don Faas  
Polly Gossard  
Suzanne Kelly

To fill the unexpired term of Herb Hatch to expire in 1990:

Jim Duea

To fill the unexpired term of Mike Quinn to expire in 1989:

Jack Adams

To serve as officers for one-year terms beginning January 1988:

President: Jack Adams  
Vice President: Don Faas  
Secretary: Sharon Wirth  
Treasurer: Jan Halverson

Persons currently serving on the Board of Directors:

Terms to expire 1989:

Jan Halverson  
Ruth Hamilton  
Marvin Miller  
Mary Peale Schofield

Terms to expire 1990:

Rodney Fox  
Lee Himan  
Jay Cole Simser  
Sharon Wirth

Anyone interested in serving on the AHA Board of Directors should contact Jay Cole Simser at 232-2580 and make plans to attend the annual meeting on January 12.

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Ames Heritage Association  
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Ames, Iowa 50010

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